

Remarks

I. Status

Claims 1-28 and 35-43 are pending. All claims stand free of the prior art. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 24 to recite a homogeneous phase reaction involving an enzyme and at least one phenolic compound that is conducted in the presence of a solubilized chitosan polymer or oligomer, and to recite that the reaction conditions are such as to maintain the enzyme and the reactants in a homogeneous phase. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, *inter alia* at page 13, lines 17-32 and page 17, lines 20-24. Claim 4 and claim 25 have been amended to ensure proper antecedent basis. Claim 43 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of independent claim 24. No new matter has been added by any of the requested amendments, which are fully supported by the original claims and specification.

II. The Rejection Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1-28 and 35-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as having a scope that is not enabled by the specification. Applicants appreciate the guidance of the Examiner in suggesting an amendment that would address this issue. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims now recite that the chitosan polymer or oligomer is initially solubilized, that the reaction is a homogeneous reaction, and that the reaction conditions are such as to maintain the reaction as a homogeneous reaction. It is accordingly submitted that the proposed amendments fully address the Examiner's concerns and render the presented claims Allowable.

III. Concluding Remarks

Applicants submit that the present response is complete and complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §121. The Application is believed to be in condition for Allowance and early notice of such favorable action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions regarding the subject invention or its patentability, Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned to answer such questions or provide any desired additional information.

Respectfully Submitted,

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